

Abstract 580

TITLE: When Will We Be Heard: Needs and Gaps in Women's Prevention Services

AUTHORS: Nesbitt, C; Edwards, CS

ISSUE: From 1985 to 1997, the percentage of AIDS cases among women tripled from 7 to 22%. With increasing HIV infection among women and particularly women of color, recent HCSUS data confirm that many women lack adequate secondary prevention services, including barrier protection to prevent transmission to partners, OI prevention, appropriate antiretroviral therapy, and experienced HIV providers for regular care outside of emergency rooms. It is not known what woman-specific secondary prevention services are available to meet this growing need.

SETTING: Community-based organizations and state and local health departments

PROJECT: The PHS Office on Women's Health and Office of HIV/AIDS Policy co-sponsor the Collaborative Group on Women and HIV/AIDS. One of the Work Groups, the Secondary Prevention Work Group, collaborated with Strategies for the Future, an independent group, to develop and review a tool to assess HIV/AIDS secondary prevention services for women across the nation. Strategies for the Future distributed the assessment tool to Ryan White Title III and IV grantees and organizations identified by the National Prevention Information Network as offering secondary prevention services.

RESULTS: Written responses from more than 100 local and state organizations were collected. Responses yielded information regarding the provision of secondary prevention services for women, the extent of women-specific services, unmet needs, and organizational strategies to meet those needs.

LESSONS LEARNED: This national assessment is a concrete example of collaborative efforts on a successful and empowering project to determine gaps and barriers to prevention services for women. Using the results of the assessment, a set of recommendations for incorporating secondary prevention services into existing programs will be discussed. This information will be useful to policymakers in better linking prevention and care services, particularly women-specific needs in HIV secondary prevention.

PRESENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Cheryl Nesbitt

Address: 618 Evening Star Place
Mitchelville, MD 20721

Telephone: (301) 808-1534

E-mail: nesbittc@aol.com